

The FCC must not lower the definition of broadband speeds as a measure to solve the problem of slow broadband deployment. It is absolutely astounding that lowering standards is being proposed as a measure for improvement. That alone is not counter-intuitive, it is inherently false. While it may show a larger percentage of Americans as having broadband speeds, it effectively would only be giving more Americans a lower quality service. There are a few benchmarks that the FCC should take into account. First of all, they should be taking into account the effective speeds that are being delivered to Americans. In many other countries around the world, 100Mb/s is not only expected, it is not even the norm. Speeds of 1Gb/s are what this country should be striving for if we want to maintain our position as a leader of technological innovation. Second, the telecommunications benchmark. Each service provider will self-report to the FCC whether they allow users to send and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video between or among points specified by the user, of the user's choosing, and without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received using any technology. (This forces companies and the FCC to acknowledge they are telecommunication providers). Third, the data-cap benchmark. The deployment of ATC is vital to the continued growth of our nation but the benefits only occur when Americans actually use the internet, data caps whether they are used to cut off access, charge overages, or for throttling by their very nature are designed to limit internet usage. As such data allowances need to be sufficiently high enough as to not discourage usage. Lastly, price metric. The FCC should track the price of services to gain a better understanding of how competition influences price, how price affects user adoption rates, and the price of services over time. We are a country that takes pride in being a world leader, and the actions of Ajit Pai are not only detrimental to our foreseeable future, but they will have repercussions that our children, and our grandchildren will suffer from.